

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are now pending in this application. The non-final Office Action mailed January 4, 2005 rejected claims 1-39. Claims 1, 8, 15, 26, and 32 have been amended in this response. Claim 3 was amended merely to correct a typographical error and for no other reason. Claims 27 and 34 were canceled, and claim 40 was added. No new matter is added by these amendments. For the reasons discussed in detail below, Applicant submits that the pending claims are patentable over the art of record and respectfully request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

Telephonic Interview:

An interview was conducted with the Examiner on February 28, 2005, wherein it was agreed that the rejections for claim 25-28 were unclear. It was further agreed that the Examiner would issue another non-final office action in response to the Applicant's response to the current Office Action.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102:

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-22, 24, 29, 31-37, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent No. 6,160,891 to Al-Salqan (hereinafter "Al-Salqan"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references do not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. For example, amended Claim 1 recites, among other things, a system for securely playing a content stream. The system includes a processor and a player. The player is arranged to receive [a] selectively encrypted content stream and encrypted screener key, and to perform actions, including decrypting the encrypted screener key using a private key associated the public key, wherein the public key and the private key are bound to the player such that they are unique to the player.

Unlike the claimed invention, however, Al-Salqan neither discloses nor suggests a player that is arranged to receive [a] selectively encrypted content stream. Nor does Al-Salqan disclose or suggest employing a private key associated with a public key, wherein the public key and the private key are bound to the player such that the public key and the private key are unique to the player.

Instead, Al-Salqan merely describes “a key such as a private key or key password of a private key that is encrypted for storage, and may be decrypted if the private key becomes lost or unavailable.” “The key is encrypted by encoding... private information such as a mother’s maiden name... the encrypted key is again encrypted, for example using asymmetric encryption... The result may be stored as a key recovery file.” See Al-Salqan’s Abstract. Thus, Al-Salqan does not disclose a player for receiving a selectively encrypted content stream. Nor does Al-Salqan disclose nor suggest a private/public key pair that is bound to the player such that they are unique to the player. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Al-Salqan does not render the claimed invention obvious.

Similarly, amended Claim 8 recites an apparatus for securely playing content that, among other things, employs a public key that is unique to the apparatus. Amended claim 15 includes a similar limitation wherein a public key is bound to a player such that the public key is unique to the player. Amended claim 26, similarly recited, among other things, using a private key, wherein the private key is constrained to a content stream player such that the public key and the private key are unique to the content stream player. Furthermore, amended claim 32 also includes a similar limitation of using a public key bound to a targeted player such that the public key is unique to the targeted player. Thus, independent claims 8, 15, 26, and 32 are also allowable for at least substantially the same reasons as independent Claim 1.

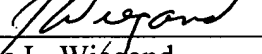
In regard to Claims 2-7, 40; 9-14; 16-25; 27-31; and 33-39 which are dependent on amended independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 26, and 32 respectively, they are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above for those independent claims.

CONCLUSION

By the foregoing explanations, Applicant believes that this response has responded fully to all of the concerns expressed in the Office Action, and believes that it has placed each of the pending claims in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. Should any further aspects of the application remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Dated: March 28, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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